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Eccles Yields To Majority

For many months the chief or at least most highly placed defender in the United States of governmental spending for recovery's sake has been Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Now Mr. Eccles gracefully bows to the recognized majority sentiment against his course and bids democracy have its way if it can achieve economy. His attitude is to be commended.

Although he is apprehensive that disastrous results may follow a policy of retrenchment now, he is willing togive way to a course which may win the greater confidence of those business leaders on whom falls the task of stimulating private employment. He virtually challenges the congressional leaders of the economy bloc to accomplish the savings in the national budget which would be necessary to establish a balance. This, of course, is beyond any immediate goal they have set. Senator Byrd and Senator Harrison have spoken only of 'a start' or 'an approach' toward bringing expenditures within revenues. To make such a start will be something.

The same day Mr. Eccles was appearing before a Senate committee the House of Representatives Appropriations committee reported an agricultural appropriation bill with $250 million inserted for farm parity payments, and it was rumored that farm-state members were logrolling for a still larger appropriation by trading votes with city representatives who want the full $150 million restored to President Roosevelt's relief appropriation. Between farm blocs, relief blocs, veterans' blocs, rivers and harbors blocs, CCC blocs, highway blocs, national defense blocs and other special interests there is little danger that spending will be allowed to fall off so rapidly as to do harm. The question is whether these groups now will submit as frankly and fairly as Mr. Eccles has submitted to the national wish for economy.

Let The Buyer Beware

Last year when the new Pure Food and Drug Act was passed after several congressional sessions of study, delay and adjustment, it was assumed that the public was safe again for a reasonable period from the blandishments of purveyors of patent medicines, cosmetics and the like who cajole a consumer into paying money for things that do him physical injury. But that era of immunity has not even begun. One of the modifications in the interest of the industries affected was that the law should not go into effect until June 25 this year in order to allow them time to adapt themselves to its requirements.

This "adaptation" in some cases now has taken the form of renewed drives on the Food and Drug Administration or on Congress to alter some of the standards and regulations or to permit exemptions from the law which would virtually wreck its intent. The essence of the present hard-won statute is that the consumer should have an opportunity to know from honest labels what he is buying and should be projected from buying unwittingly materials which medical opinion considers harmful or dangerous. One proposed amendment would exempt from the law any manufacturer of a proprietary medicine who could hire a diagnosing physician on his staff, thus putting a million human guinea pigs at the mercy of a single venal member of a generally very honorable profession.

Before there was even the first Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 in the United States, the rule of commerce was "caveat emptor"—let the buyer beware. Then it meant let him beware what he was buying. Today it may well mean, let consumers beware of the selfish and limited influences which would break down if possible the public protections that have been set up in the interests of honesty and decency in trade.

Antithesis Of Civilization

Mussolini's speech changes nothing. More insults for the democracies; more fire-eating words in place of substantial fare for Fascist veterans; more denunciation of peace mixed with generalities on the necessity for peace; more vague references to Italy's claims and mention of Djibouti, Tunisin and the Suez Canal. No one should have expected a declaration of war, no wise man will find here any firm assurance of peace.

Yet London and Paris appear relieved that Il Duce did not commit himself to an "impossible" program. It hardly seems possible that this optimism is official. For experience with the "moderation" of the dictators causes any claim to look like a stepping stone to another and larger claim. There are adjustments that should have been made with Italy before this. France and Britain can have no pride in the record of their treatment of Italy during and after the World War. Of this, the responsible English historian, R. W. Seton-Watson, says:

"The Treaty of London was in many respects the most nakedly Imperialistic of the whole bunch of secret conventions. But for this the Allies were equally, if not more, to blame; they had undertaken commitments which could not be reconciled with their public pledges, yet they were not prepared to take the only honorable course, namely to provide the compensation to which Italy was legally entitled out of their own property, instead of that of others."

Both from the standpoint of fulfilling promises and from that of staving off trouble in the old ways of diplomacy, there is much to be said for France and Britain making a settlement with Mussolini before he announces terms which they cannot accept. His reluctance to announce such terms indicates his own weakness—and, according to him nothing counts but force. Yet he is becoming desperate. And in Western Europe there is no room for such advntures as Il Duce's partner has been indulging at the other end of the axis.

Enough And To Spare

No report in recent months has served to focus attention of thinking people on the fallacy of national self-sufficiency more than the report of Franke E. Lathe of the Canadian National Research Council on the availability of the world's natural resources. Any bare catalogue of resources would constitute only a picture without perspective. It would tell us that many of our common metals and minerals, stored in power and heat, will be rare in some sections of the world in the next fifty to one hundred years; that food will be insufficient to meet the demands of a growing population on poorer and poorer soil.

Mr. Lathe's convenient tables show at a glance the decreasing sufficiency for national needs in such commodities as coal, iron, copper, lead, zinc, nickel, tin, asbestos and petroleum, among the great powers. Only Great Britain, the United States and Russia are self-sufficient in even half of these essentials, and no other power reaches a high level in more than one commodity.

Hence the validity of his conclusion that in view of modern progress in natural science and technology, making available new natural resources of increasingly vital importance where yesterday they were inert or useless—statesmen and economists must soon consider the world as a single economic unit. When key men in most nations fully understand how easy it will be to overcome the dragon of interdependence through high business ethics and international trade, there need never be any fear but what continued application of research will disclose ways and means to furnish more than enough food for four times the world's present population, and supply it with sufficient minerals and power.

An Old Rule Goes

The United States Supreme Court at length has decided in effect that officials are people and that they can be subjected to the same income taxes that ordinary mortals pay without jeopardizing the delicate balance between State and Federal governmnts.

This overthrow of a hundred years of precedents need not of itself rouse fears that the Federal Government is about to swallow up the States. So long as the tax involved is a uniform rate on all citizensand not a special tax aimed at some governmental agency, the new rule is a wholesome one. It is very probable that the Federal Government will derive more revenue from taxation of state and municipal employees' salaries than will the States from taxation of Federal salaries, both because there are more local or state employees and because the Federal rates are much higher.

Every such ruling in the direction of removing income tax exceptions emphasizes strongly the need for a conference or series of conferences between state and Federal authorities to mark out a new division of tax fields between the two layers of government. The overlapping and duplication of taxation is particularly bad in the income tax field. Congressmen will become more aware of this when they have to pay state as well as Federal income taxes on their salaries and will be less likely to append their names to a war-tax bill carrying 99 per cent rates on large incomes without realizing that state rates added to this would in some cases take more than a man's whole income.

The present decision of the Supreme Court does not touch the question of tax-exempt securities. If the court should destroy the mutual tax immunity of incomes from state and Federal bonds — which, on the whole, would be a tremendous step in the right direction—it would become even very much more necessary to arrive at some reallocation of tax sources which would enable the States to make up their losses. For there also the increased costs to states and municipalities in interest on their debt would be much more than they would gain from taxation of income on Federal bonds.

Apart from these fiscal questions the opinion of the Court provides a striking instance of the modification of a rule of constitutional law by the action of the Supreme Court, even a partially reconstituted Supreme Court, instead of by the long and arduous process of constitutional amendment. This seems particularly appropriate when, as in the case of the one-time invalidation of state minimum-wage laws, the original and unsatisfactory rule rested not directly upon any language in the Constitution but on a judicial interpretation or inference as to the constitutional system.

Embargoes On Knowledge?

American educators giving vent to personal feelings on the internal policies of foreign countries, issuing manifestos and declaring group boycotts, should take care lest their acts constitute in America, initial steps toward the very intolerance they so earnestly abhor. The high moral purpose which led a Harvard researcher to close his laboratory to citizens of any totalitarian state, a Princeton dean to declare war against those who persecute minorities, and the Boston Chapter of the American Association of Scientific Workers to ban purchases of German-manufactured scientific apparatus is obvious but the methods of voicing disapproval are questionable.

There would be justification for quietly pursuing exclusionist paths by reason of a need for concealing processes which might be misused for destructive purposes. German instruments might even be turned down because they are allegedly "inferior to the old standards, and very much behind similar articles of American make."

But natural scientists profess their fundamental aim to be the search for and dissemination of facts in matters pertaining to the physical universe. They are zealous advocates of intellectual freedom. Yet what becomes of that freedom when emotion and opinion rule the laboratory even some of the time? Such militant methods used against nations with which the United States is not at war, breaking off relations with that part of humanity which for the moment does not agree with us, would establish embargoes on knowledge and presage defeat at the outset for international understanding.

Trends *and* Tides

Editorially in the public press, from lecture forums, Chautauqua lyceums, and from each and every source that seeks to influence public judgment, there eminates every now and then emphatic pleas for a higher and nobler expression of true Americanism, with the result that many patriotic people are seeking to determine from the various opinions just what constitutes the true American spirit. It is neither facetious nor trite to state that under existing circumstances and conditions there is a definite need for an adequate definition of that term. For a nation can rise no higher than the body politic of the people who comprise its citizenship. Their ideals, principles, and purposes are reflected in the character and the life of the country. Their basic ideals must retain their splendor all through the years if effective public welfare is to remain a public trust.

Americanism is fundementally and essentially, demoncracy. It is not Fascism, Communism, or any other ism. The real American, imbued with the spirit of his forefathers, believes implicitly in equality of opportunity for all men, irrespective of race, color or religious creed. There is really no place for narrow partisanship, politically nor bigotry in religion. These have crept in but do not belong in the American form of government. The true American will judge his fellows by what they are, what they do that is worth while, not by what they have or what they claim to be. He is a firm adherent of the doctrine of fair play and a vigorous opponent of the devastating dogma of monopolistic competition based on the survival of the fittest. He seeks from others merely that rightful consideration which it is his due award of them. Not only in the realm of religion, but in the sphere of politics and business, he advocates the practice, and not merely the principle, of the Golden Rule. He believes further that when the hour of dire need strikes that it is his duty to act as his brother's keeper, and to give of his substance toward their relief according to his capacity to do so. This statement has been nobly substantiated during the recent flood disaster in the Middle West. Those who were beyond the danger of the rushing waters gave generously of their bounty to alleviate the distress and suffering of the afflicted. This was the spirit of democracy — of true Americanism.

The true American is not merely a flag-waving emotionalist. His patriotic ardor does not merely flare up to dizzy heights when the bands are playing martial airs and the troops are marching off to give, if duty demands, their lives for their country. Deeper than his emotional enthusiasm manifest at such times is an underlying current of common sense and sane rationalism which permits both balance and perspective in viewing the matters of state. Familar as he should be with his country's history, he is loyal to the best of her noble traditions and eager for the realization of her highest potentialities. True to the heritage of freedom which has been decreed by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, he will fight if necessary for the maintenance of her rights with his life, but his spirit of real patriotism is loftiest when he sincerely, patriotically and truly meets the responsibility of American citizenship in times of peace.

To be law-abiding, self- sacrificing, to do his part in any issue or any crises that may arise —to vote as his conscience dictates and not as political expediency declares safest — this is the true spirit of Americanism.

The true American is the servant of no man, the slave to no system, humbling himself only before his Creator; holding fast to what has been noblest and ploring any radical innovations that may arise to mar the past's glory, he strives to do his part toward shaping a better nation than even Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton and the statesmen of that pioneer regime envisioned in their noblest plans. Inspired by lofty purposes, and motivated to courageous action, the true American thus discovers the true American spirit.

MANY NATIONS TO SEND YOUTHS TO POULTRY CONG.

Youth organizations from all parts of the globe will be represented at the Seventh Annual World's Poultry Congress and Exposition in Cleveland, from July 28 to August 7. A Hall of Youth will be occepied solely by young people interested in the poultry industry, according to Dr. Morley A. Jull, Secretary of the Industries Committee and head of the University of Maryland Poultry Department.

These organizations have been invited to display or exhibit the application of their national agricultural problems for youth a sthey apply to the poultry industry. Twenty thousand square feet of floor space will be available in the Hall of Youth for activities and entertainment of the youngsters, Dr. Jull indicated.

The United States will be represented by five organizations. They are the College Poultry Science Clubs, Future Farmers of America, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts of America, and New Farmers of America. Officials expect more than 1,000 participants from at least 40 states. Many boys and girls, other than those participating, will be visitors at the Congress and will be provided for at the youth camp.

Each of the national organizations has been invited to develop an exhibit. The exhibits will be made by national organizations and not on a state basis.

Youth of foreign nations have beee invited to be represented in each youth event, and foreign teams may present demonstrations in their own language.

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A
House Of Cards?

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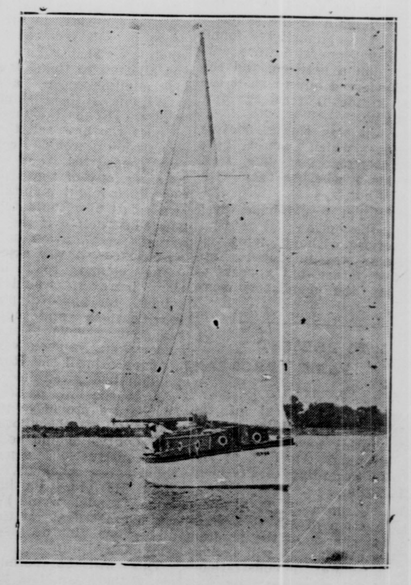

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